



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

Seattle District

Public Notice

Navigation Section
Post Office Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755
ATTN: Hiram Arden (OD-TS-NS)
Email: hiram.t.arden@usace.army.mil

Public Notice Date: December 24, 2003
Expiration Date: January 14, 2004
Reference: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-21R

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PLACEMENT OF SAND, SOUTH JETTY BREACH FILL MAINTENANCE, WESTPORT, WASHINGTON

REVISED 21-DAY NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) proposes the placement of approximately (25,000 cubic yards) of sandy dredged materials at the South Jetty breach fill and along a rapidly eroding sandy shoreline adjacent to the Grays Harbor south jetty. The proposed sand placement is considered an interim measure intended to reduce the risk of another breach occurring until a long-term management solution can be formulated and implemented. The proposed project is described below and shown on the enclosed figures. The proposed work will occur in January - February 2004 with in water work completed by February 14, 2004. The in water construction window opens again on July 15, 2004. The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups and agencies.

LOCATION

The project area is located along the shoreline of Half Moon Bay in southwestern Grays Harbor, adjacent to Westhaven State Park in Westport, Grays Harbor County, Washington (T16N, R12W, Section 1).

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

After winter storms breached the sand spit adjacent to the Grays Harbor south jetty in 1993, the Corps placed about 600,000 cubic yards of sand to close the breach until a "long term solution" could be developed. Rapid erosion has continued and if left unchecked would result in the formation of another breach between the South Jetty and the adjacent South Beach. An interim action is necessary to prevent another breach from occurring and threatening the stability of the jetty until a long-term plan has been implemented.

AUTHORITY

The Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Project, including maintenance of the Federal

navigation channel and the South Jetty, is authorized by the River and Harbor Act of August 30, 1935 (House Document 53, 73rd Congress, 2nd Session) and the Water Resources Development Act of November 17, 1986 (Public Law 99-662). The proposed work is within the Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Project operations and maintenance (O&M) authority because its intent is to protect navigation features, including the south jetty and navigation channel. There is a proper use of O&M funds because of the reasonable relationship between the project and its purpose for protecting a Congressionally authorized navigation project, including features (i.e., South Jetty and Federal Channel), from a possible breach landward of the South Jetty.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project consists of placing approximately (25,000 cubic yards) of sand material in three locations on the breach fill. The material will be placed along the southeast corner of the fill between the rapidly eroding shoreline edge and the +4-foot depth contour (MLLW datum), in a "channel" that has formed on the east side of the fill, and on the northeast corner of the fill, as shown on the attached drawing. The material will be end-dumped by trucks from an access road on the upper bank. Upland grading of sand material will occur. Currents and waves are expected to re-grade and disperse the material that is placed along the beach.

The sand material will be rehandled from the existing Corps' sand stockpile. The sand stockpile is sacrificial to nourish the highly erosive sand beach of Half Moon Bay. The sand stockpile has also been used to nourish the breach fill against continued erosion. The performance of sand materials placed will be carefully monitored during the formulation of a long-term solution for management of erosion in this area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. Federally listed and proposed species which may occur in the project vicinity include five species listed as threatened, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrius nivosus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*).

After receipt of comments from the initial June 2003 public notice, covering essentially the same area with different material, the Corps evaluated the potential impacts to the listed species and received letters from both service agencies that confirmed a preliminary determination made that the proposed work may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect threatened species, or their critical habitat, under the jurisdiction of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project is expected to have no effect on marine mammal and sea turtle species under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Seattle District has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of

Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

The project area was created after construction of the Grays Harbor South Jetty and has had no historic human habitation; therefore, little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge on an historic property.

The District Engineer invites responses to this Public Notice from Federal, State and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, Indian tribes and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

PUBLIC HEARING

Any person may request, in writing and within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION

The decision whether to perform the proposed work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to modify, condition, or not proceed with the proposed work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The evaluation of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. This evaluation will include an alternatives analysis.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION

The State of Washington reviewed the initial public notice date June 27, 2003, for the previously proposed work in the same area for consistency with the approved Washington Coastal Zone Management Program. A coastal zone consistency statement was prepared and submitted to the Department of Ecology. A determination was made that the proposed maintenance work is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.

A Section 401 water quality certification is requested from the State of Washington.

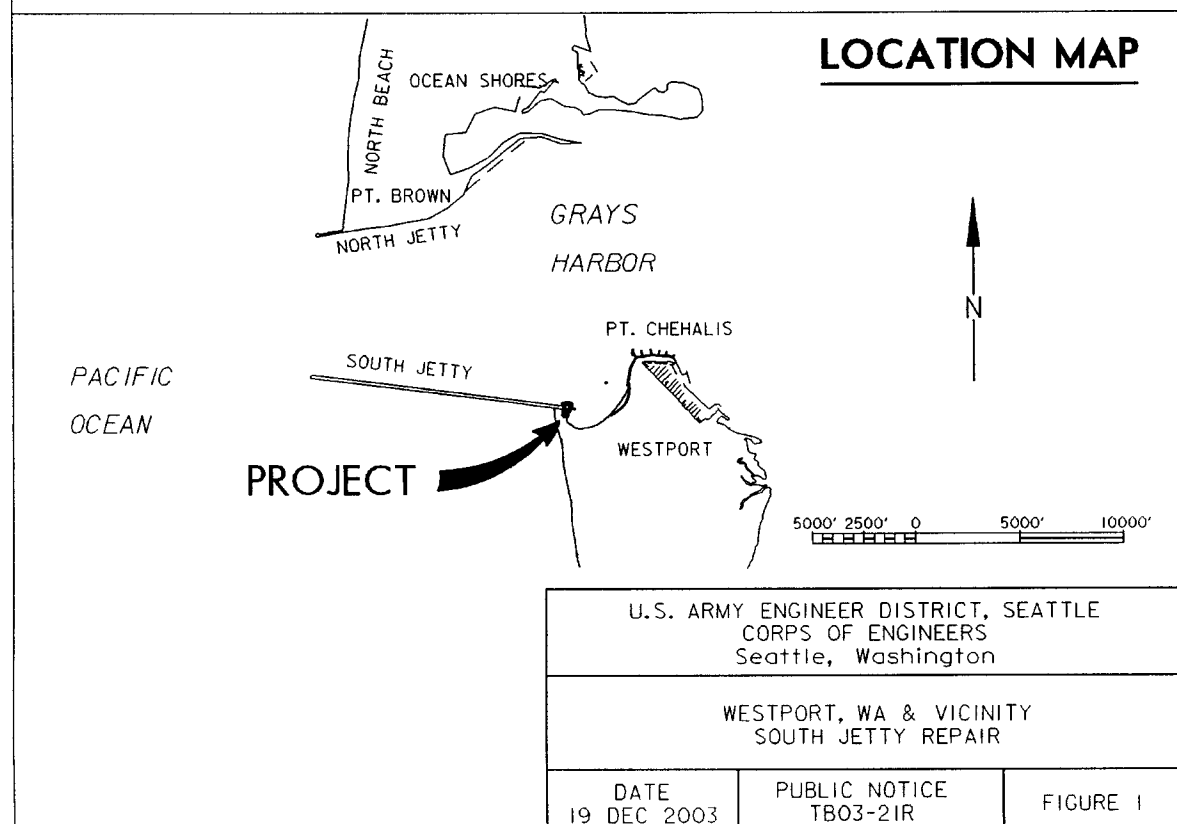
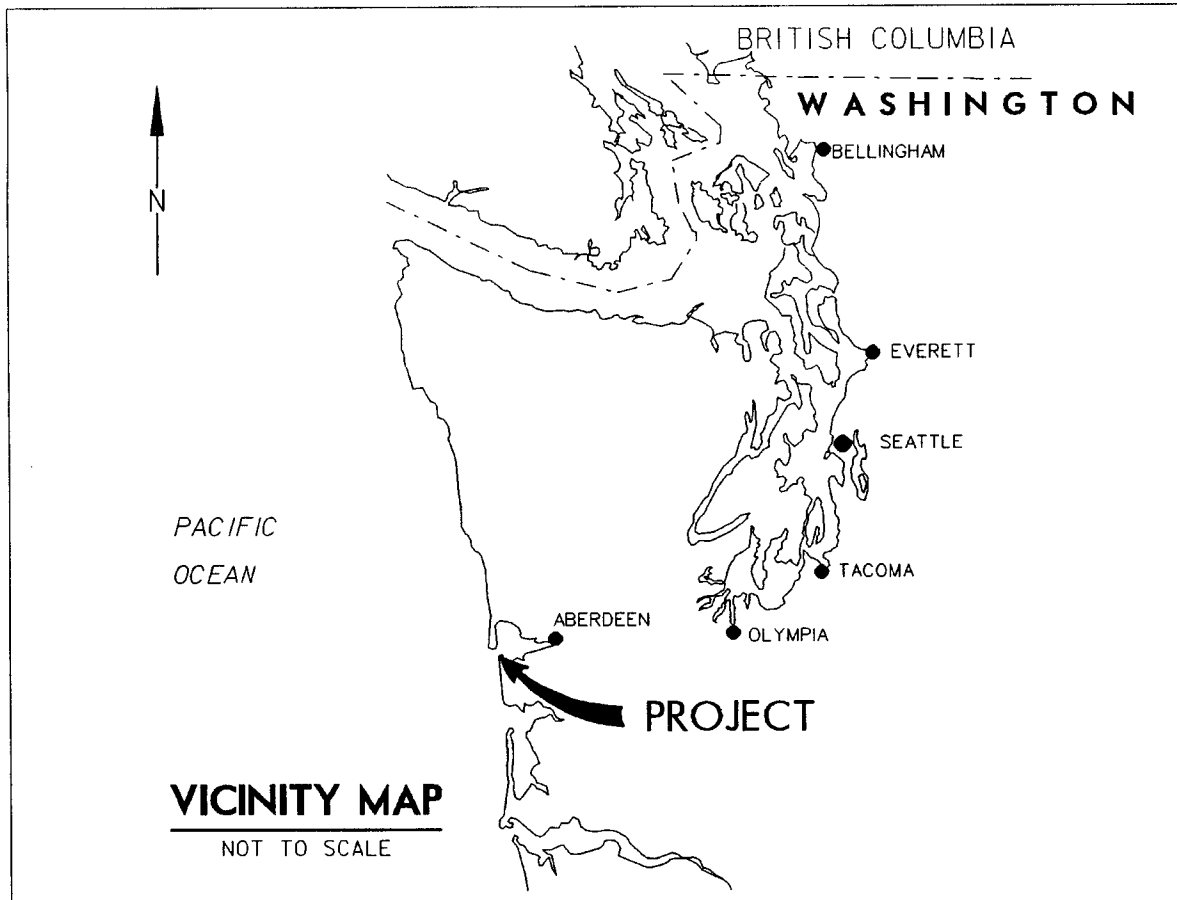
Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, a draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the placement of sand and is available on the Seattle District web site at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/envirdocs.html>. A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed maintenance work will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

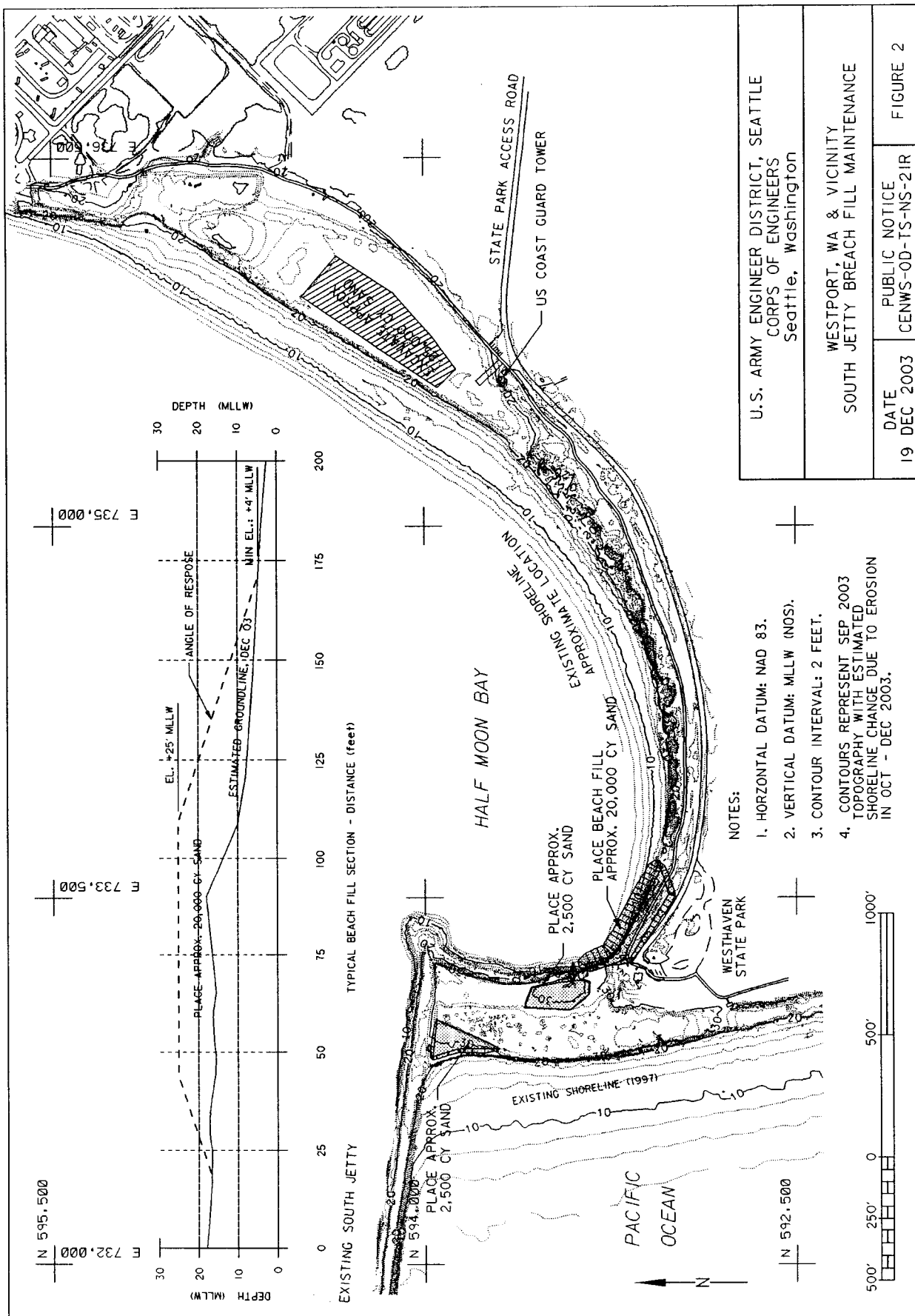
COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD

Conventional mail or e-mail comments on these factors will be accepted, made part of the record, and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the best public interest to proceed with the proposed project. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown on the notice. All e-mail comments should be sent to hiram.t.arden@usace.army.mil. Conventional mail comments should reach this office, ATTN: Navigation Section, not later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Requests for additional information should be directed to Hiram Arden, Project Manager at (206) 764-3401.



Hiram Arden
Project Manager
Navigation Section





U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Seattle, Washington

WESTPORT, WA & VICINITY
SOUTH JETTY BEACH FILL MAINTENANCE

DATE	PUBLIC NOTICE	FIGURE 2
19 DEC 2003	CENWS-OD-TS-NS-2IR	



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006*

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification
and for
Certification of Consistency with the
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: December 24, 2003

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-OD-TS-NS-21R will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307© of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600